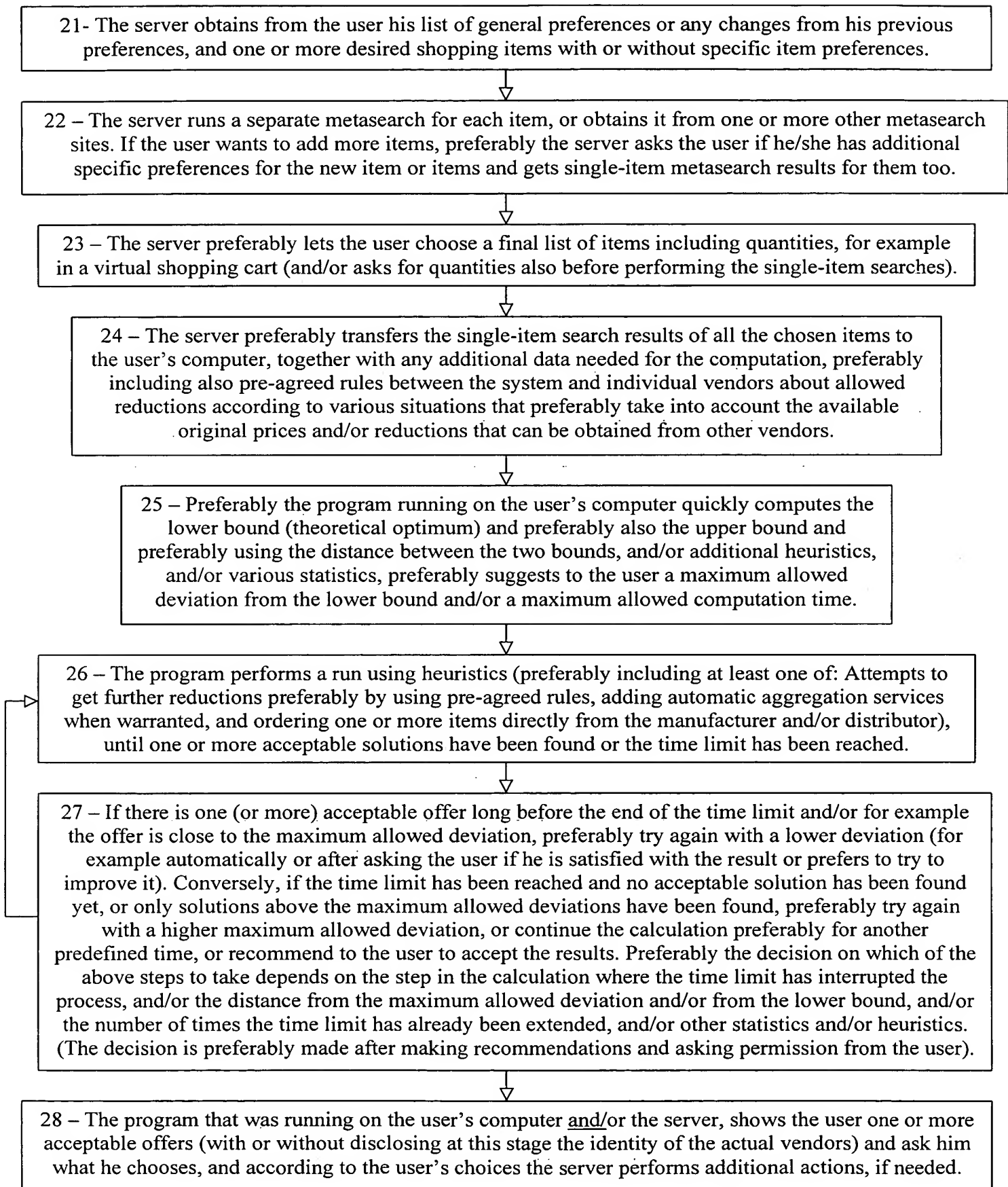


**Fig. 1**

Division options:

=====

1. 5
2. 4+1
3. 3+2
4. 3+1+1
5. 2+2+1
6. 2+1+1+1
7. 1+1+1+1+1

Fig. 2

**Fig. 3a**

Here are the results of your optimization run for buying 5 books from 189 potential vendors.  
These results were obtained after 45 seconds out of 60 seconds allowed. No special reductions were possible.

The Recommended offer for buying the 5 items you requested is:

Buy the books:



1. TITLE: Alternative Science: Challenging the Myths of the Scientific Establishment by Author: Richard Milton ISBN: 0892816317  
Publisher: Inner Traditions International, Limited, Publish Date: 04/01/1996, Binding: Paperback, 272 pages, List Price: USD 16.95



2. TITLE: Shattering the Myths of Darwinism by Author: Richard Milton ISBN: 0892818840  
Publisher: Inner Traditions International, Limited Publish Date: 03/01/2000 Binding: Paperback, 320 pages List Price: USD 16.95

From [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk). Total cost: (\$15.15 for item 1+ \$15.15 for item 2+ \$14 shipment by airmail) = \$44.30.  
Item 1 ships within 24 hours. Item 2 ships within 2-3 days. Airmail time: 7-10 days. Total estimated time: 9-13 days.

Buy the books:



1. TITLE: Cracking Creativity: The Secrets of Creative Genius by Author: Michael Michalko ISBN: 1580083110  
Publisher: Ten Speed Press Publish Date: 03/01/2001 Binding: Paperback, 352 pages List Price: USD 19.95



2. TITLE: Creativity: Flow & the Psychology of Discovery & Invention by Author: Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi ISBN: 0060928204  
Publisher: HarperTrade Publish Date: 06/01/1997 Binding: Paperback, 352 pages List Price: USD 15.00

From [powell.com](http://powell.com) (2<sup>nd</sup> hand). Total cost: (\$9 for item 1+ \$5.25 for item 2+ \$15 shipment by airmail) = \$29.25.  
Item 1 ships within 1-3 days. Item 2 ships within 2-3 days. Airmail time: up to 14 days. Total estimated time: up to 17 days.

Buy the book:



1. TITLE: Creative Breakthroughs: Tap the Power of Your Unconscious Mind by Author: Jill Morris ISBN: 0446392170  
Publisher: Warner Books, Incorporated Publish Date: 03/01/1992 Binding: Paperback, 272 pages List Price: USD 15.95  
eBook list price USD 9.95

As an eBook from [powell.com](http://powell.com). Total cost (\$7.96 + 0 shipment) = \$7.96. Estimated time: Instantly.  
If you prefer to buy a hard-copy instead, Click [here](#) to view alternative offer.

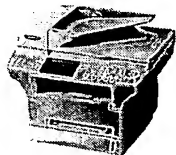
Estimate of the level of the result: Lower bound was: \$75.35, Upper bound was \$118.70, Maximum allowed deviation was \$15. Acceptable offer is \$81.51. Various statistics indicate that the obtained result is probably within 5% from the real optimal solution.

**Fig. 3b**

Here are the results of your optimization run for buying 8 computer-related items from 290 potential vendors. These results were obtained after 2.33 minutes out of 4 minutes allowed.

The Recommended offer for buying the 8 items you requested is:

Buy the items:



1. **Brother MFC-9880** laser copier, printer, fax and color scanner. List price \$940.20. Dimensions: With Carton (598mm width) x (567mm depth) x (580mm height) Without Carton (492mm width) x (456mm depth) x (429mm height). Weight With Carton 21.2 Kg Without Carton 17 Kg.

< Image>

2. ...

From amatteroffax.com. Total Cost (\$576.76 for item 1 + \$340 for item 2 + \$12 shipment to aggregation point by ground 2 days)=\$934.76. This cost includes a reduction of 5% from original price on item no.2 allowed by pre-agreed rules, in order to prevent loss of item 2 to emscomputing.com.

Buy the items:

< Image>

1. ...

< Image>

2. ...

< Image>

3. ...

< Image>

4. ...

< Image>

5. ...

from emscomputing.com. Total cost (...) ...

Buy the item:

< Image>

1. ...

from PCNation. Total cost (...) ...

Since amatteroffax.com does not offer International orders at this stage, and since the shipment from emscomputing.com will cost \$120 without the additional item from PCNation and \$128 with it + \$10 ground shipment to aggregation point, and separate International shipment from PCNation alone will cost \$48, it is recommended to execute the order with our aggregation services. Giving up amatteroffax.com and our aggregation service will increase total cost by \$152 to the next found acceptable offer. Total estimated shipment time is (3 days for ground shipment to aggregation point + 4 days for FedEx to Israel) = 7 days.

Estimate of the level of the result: Lower bound was: \$2135.50, Upper bound was \$2712.00, Maximum allowed deviation was \$180. Acceptable offer is \$2282.50 including \$20 for aggregation service. Various statistics indicate that the obtained result is probably within 2% from the real optimal solution based on the single-items search data.